**Hillhead High School Parent Council Meeting Minutes** – **Tuesday, 23rd March 2021, 19:00**

**Parent Council:** Catriona Futter (PC Chair), Jerome Boué (PC Secretary), Karen Leeson, Andrea Fisher, Ali Downes, Bernie Mitchell, Kate Temple, Annabel Wright

**School Staff**: Mrs Karen McAlaney (HT), Mr Steven Neil (DHT), Ms Nicola Higgins (DHT), Mr Tom Carson (Maths Principal Teacher)

**Parent forum:** 18 members of the Parent Forum

**Apologies:** PC treasurer Chirsty Hamilton

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| **Topic** | **To do** |
| |  | | --- | | **Welcomed to PC meeting, welcome to members of Parent Forum – PC Chair**   * All approved minutes from last meetings - available on PC tab of school website * Chair inviting all from Parent Forum for suggestions on communications, sub-groups, anything that PC could do better * PC members intro: Ali, on PC for 3 years, 2 children in S2/5, helps with Zoom; Karen, 3 children in S1,3,6 * Staff intro: HT Mrs McAlaney, Mr Neil DHT S5/6, Ms Higgins Acting DHT S4, Mr Carson PT Maths   **Question**: Can Zoom session be recorded and made available to Parent Forum? **Answer**: HT/Chair will check policy and advise  **Update: policy is not to record PC meetings. Minutes will stand as an accurate record** | | * HT & Chair to check PC session recording policy and advise |
| **School Recovery update – HT Mrs McAlaney**   * Phase 2 with all years returning started last week; before that S4-6 came in for practical subjects * For seniors, one or two sessions per day; for S1-3 – 1hr 45minutes sessions per week with a focus on reconnection with peers, school and community. * First week, S1-3 were a bit subdued, however appear to be enjoying being back * Sustainability lesson for S1-2s on-going * Lot of work getting ready for full time return, hopefully after Easter * Plan from government to reopen fully after Easter, with timetable in place from Aug to Dec   **Update on S5/6 – DHT Mr Neil**   * Senior pupils: engagement & attendance very good, feedback received from Principal Teachers: very good, excellent, outstanding on attendance and work produced * Focus work can take place thanks to smaller class sizes; focus on learning & teaching; satisfied where pupils are overall   **Question from Chair**: S4 tracking reports issued last week, however parents/carers missing opportunity to speak face-to-face with schoolteachers in parents evening - good engagement on tracking reports? **Answer from Mr Neil/HT**:   * Will come back with another set of tracking reports for S5-6 after Easter break; then another one mid-May, as need a gap to allow interventions in-between * Latest tracking report focusing on what has happened between January until return to school * S1-3 (BGE Broad general education) tracking report will be finished by tomorrow and should be distributed or posted for those not in, next week * Plan was to e-mail tracking reports, however process not in place yet   **Comment from PC Member Astrid**: on PC for a month, children in S1/3. Grateful for what teachers are doing, recognise effort put in. Return hasn’t been very successful for her children as only 1h45mn in school per week, not much happening.  **Comments from Parent Forum:**   * The wording “reconnecting with your learning” was not well chosen and misleading for the children and parents. The children have been engaging really hard with their learning at home since January. They have just been disconnected from the physical school environment. We would have like to hear “going on with your learning or looking towards the future or anything similar”. * They are having less teaching as no live or online lessons currently * S1 somewhat disappointed to be in class with only 3 other kids * Sustainable Scotland material is good, but requires self-motivation * Can’t help but feel it would have been better to stick with prior arrangements for BGE (S1-3) * Heard this from other S2 parents as well - pupils that were doing well with projects, suddenly feel less connected * My boys in S1 have lost a lot in the equation, hardly any work or follow up at home and not really inspiring time in school * Pupils were expecting real subjects, these short sessions could have been an excellent opportunity to bring up the sustainability topic for example * Unfortunately although it was great for the children to be back, there has been a lot less online work since the return and I feel my son has disconnected despite working well since January * I felt like to encourage pupil engagement, lessons should have included live lessons online   **Comment from HT**: Lessons were not called reconnecting with your learning. Focus was on reconnection with peers, school and community. limited options for S1-3 in terms of in-school learning, as per guidelines, priority given to senior pupils. It is a complex situation, 2m distancing within school means very reduced class sizes and most teachers required to teach live classes to senior phase pupils, hence reduction on lessons for learning at home. Different for every school but doing best possible given situation. Onlne lessons on sustainability from West OS are excellent and have engaged pupils – Mrs Campbell putting up daily challenges and school is showcasing work / celebrating success on Twitter too. Lot of time and thought put into the lessons for the S1-S3 pupils for the 14 days of the phase 2 timetable. Once a week in school is not ideal but the plan is for all pupils to return full-time after the holidays.  **Comment from Chair**: Very limited options for school for these three weeks given all the restrictions and limitations – school doing their best to follow guidance and directives. Our role as parents to support our children and encourage them to be as engaged as possible. |  |
| **Wellbeing – Acting DHT Ms Higgins**   * Been very positive, pupils are happy and engaged. * Mr Neil has been going round S5/6 classes, Ms Higgins has been doing the same with S4. Other Depute Heads also going round all classes, meeting pupils as they arrive, seeing them at the end of lessons etc. * Feedback is that pupils are glad to be back in school, to see staff and peers * Will take time to feel like they’re back to normal * Pastoral Care (PC)/Support for Learning (SfL) are there to support pupils as they've always been however pupils can't currently drop in like they used to, however can still email them to arrange a time to speak * All PC/Support for Learning (SfL) staff are teaching but giving priority to PC/SfL * PC have been keeping a close eye on more vulnerable pupils * Counselling still happening but not in person at the moment.   Comment from Parent Forum:   * Even if the session in school are short, they should be used in an inspiring, challenging, interesting way. It is very kind and extremely important to address well-being and well-being packs are a good idea but we do feel that well-being is also about feeling inspired and learning new things especially when you are 13 years old.   **HPV Vaccine Immunisation**   * These were postponed due to current situation, hopefully taking place after the Easter holiday, should hear plans soon   **Ensuring no pupil feels isolated**   * Good idea but have to respect social distancing – something we're thinking about as some pupils struggling * Mentors in place, staff very aware, S1 DHT checks in regularly, always aware of whom we're worried about   **Comment from Parent Forum**: I think the current S1 have had a particularly difficult time as they missed the end of P7 and a break from school again. Buddies/peer support is a brilliant idea. |  |
| **Vision for next term – S5/6 DHT Mr Neil**   * Preparing now for return after Easter hols * HH vision is part of wider vision in terms of curriculum, to ensure HH improves as a result of all this * Tag line: new normal = new opportunities; opportunity just now to really make impact between April/June; setting things up nicely for return in August * Broad outline of our vision as school: since Mrs McAlaney became HT, been promoting/living school values; before, we didn't have values visuals up in school or anywhere – instead, were experiencing values through staff and pupils * Got foundation of values already laid in, committed staff, moving forward, still looking ahead but getting feedback from Parent forum is important * Next step: different focus, with tie-in with existing school values – with 10 weeks left, from April to June: * focus on ambition and inspiration – focus will be on face to face learning, revision, study support online * focus on resilience; Mr Carson will share with S5s; Dr John Paul Fitzpatrick worked with S5/6 for years; now going to run coaching and mentoring programme, to ensure prepared for SQA (in particular S5s) * focus on future pathways and integrity; evidence gathering opportunity * focus on action, making sure our senior pupils can showcase to the best of their ability/talent * 4 focus on community and kindness, to celebrate; prize-giving * will be specifics for each year group, tracking reports, transition work, S6 induction   **Comment from PC co-optee Bernie:** on PC for 26years; SQA consultation process for pupils, parents, staff – poorly written document, proposes shift of emphasis on overworked staff – unworkable.  **Comment from PC Member Kate:** child in S2; drop-off between school and university it is so critical to help the school decrease that gap. | * All S5/6 parents to complete SQA consultation if possible to ensure our views are heard |
| **Lateral Flow Test (Covid-19) – Chair**  *[Note added after meeting: Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still infectious and can give the virus to others.*   * Encouraging pupils to perform them – ideally twice a week, * Letters going out next week * Test will be done at home   **Questions from Parent Forum**: If you get a positive LFD test and a subsequent negative PCR test result, do you still have to self-isolate? Apparently, this is an ongoing issue in England where a negative PCR is not releasing children from self-isolating. Why throat testing, rather than nose, which is easier?  **Answer from HT:** Seeking guidance and will advise asap | * HT to further advise on council guidance |
| **Bank Street Car Access Update – Chair**   * Plan submitted by Bank Street Residence & Traders Association (BARTA) to close off street end (where Bank Street meets Great Western Road) for priority to cyclist/pedestrians * So far approved by BARTA, HH community council and Woodlands community council, HH Primary school * Put to HH parent forum and approved in principle by majority of attendees * Someone from BARTA will attend next PC meeting to present plan (majority attending in favour of it) * Benefits: reduced car emissions, cycling safety, less traffic, safer for our school pupils   **Comment from PC member Annabel**: Child in S4; really in favour of it, should be prioritising it. **Comment from PC member Andrea**: Children in S5/3, great, Bank Street has been a nightmare for Primary and HS pupils/parents/carers. **Comment from PC member Kate**: In favour of it as very unsafe for pedestrians, however traffic may increase in other areas, need to consider everything, use of other streets, worry is will increase traffic around primary school. |  |
| **PACE Update – PC Member Annabel**   * Respect of environment * Activity restricted as not been able to meet * Currently group of 10 people caring passionately about what school/council are doing about environment * GCC have said this can only work with parental support * Meeting behind the scenes and will have input once able to meet up again   **Comment from Parent Forum:** I would like the parent council to help and support the school living the school values across all fields, one field in particular being respect of the environment within school and beyond school walls and sustainability. |  |
| **Parent Council Additional Comments – Chair**   * Not been able to do any fundraising, events, etc. however suggestions welcome from Parent Forum * International school community – how can we celebrate this? Bring parent forum together. * PC member Astrid organised international evenings at HH primary school for 8 years – could help if PC voted to replicate * Quiz night was great, keen to start again * What kind of info would like to see on Twitter, FB, etc. from PC? |  |
| **Additional Comments/Questions from Parent Forum**:   * Could we look into developing the school grounds to inspire and keep the students active? Climbing wall in the back playground, some ball area, garden… there are great grants around to help * Love the idea of improving the school environment and remembering that even 15-year-olds like to ‘play’ * Covid showed us how physical activity is important for well-being. life beyond Covid should really be about exploring a better environment for all   Communication from Parent Council   * Emails are brilliant as I am neither on Facebook or twitter * I feel that important stuff should go out via email * Trying to avoid most social media * Zoom meetings are really good and proactive, thank you Catriona and everyone involved * Can parent forum meetings continue on zoom even after we’re back to normal? * Blended PC meeting – it would be good to be able to attend in person but also join online | * PC will consider it, possibly alternating face to face and virtual |
| **Closing Comments from Staff**   * HT – Planning some things before Easter break, will share next week; thanks to Catriona for doing so well at running zoom meetings and for being our Chair * DHT Mr Neil – thanks for opportunity to share * DHT Ms Higgins – thanks for all your support as always   **Comment from Parent Forum:** agree, thank you especially to you Catriona **Comment from Parent Forum:** it’s really great to hear the staff being so enthused and energised! Thank you… |  |
| * **Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 May** |  |
| * **PC Meeting End** |  |